

November 30, 2014

Your Honor,

It's not possible for me to be at the Smart Meter hearings in person, so I am availing myself of e-mail so that my voice can be heard.

I need to move from Manchester, Michigan, to Ann Arbor. I'm very concerned about entering an entire apartment building of Smart Meters. Given my past experience with the digital meter, I am also concerned with the DTE alternative meter. As summarized below I've already had health difficulties with the alternative meter.

For five years I have lived at 521 Galloway Drive, Apartment #136, in Manchester, which is serviced by Consumer Energy. In the Spring of 2013 I returned home from a two-week trip, in good spirits and good health, and suddenly experienced major sleep disruption night after night. My thoughts were disjointed; I had to concentrate in the extreme to complete a sentence in my mind. When I would manage to sleep I would often be awakened by a racing heartbeat. These symptoms were disturbing and not part of my previous history.

Because nothing had changed in my body, mind or emotions to precipitate such sudden, negative symptoms, I asked the manager of my apartment complex if there had been any change to the building in my absence. She told me that the only change was the "upgrading" of two of the twenty some electrical meters from analog to digital. Neither of the upgraded meters was connected to my apartment, but one upgraded meter was for the unit immediately adjacent to my bedroom. I called Consumers Energy and was told these were not Smart Meters, but digital meters that could not

possibly cause any health problems.

I educated myself about various electrical issues and was able to lessen the impact by moving my bed, using Steitzer filters (high frequency electro-magnetic pollution filters), and turning off the fuses that powered the bedroom circuits at night. Still, it was not the same as having an analog meter.

On December 9th I am moving into an Ann Arbor apartment complex of seventy-five units. I am a low-income senior and cannot afford a surcharge to opt out of the Smart Meter if it negatively impacts me. But it's not just the expense. DTE refuses to allow analog meters, the tried and true option with not a whisper of negative impact on consumers. In contrast many of us have had trouble with the digital meter, the only remedy offered by DTE as an alternative to Smart Meter.

Please restore our power of choice as consumers. The analog meter is the only choice that does not come with significant reports of difficulties. There are medical doctors and scientists who specialize in physics, biology, and related disciplines who are stating clearly that these devices are disruptive to cellular communication within the human body. The new industries are highly profitable and cannot be trusted to seek the truth about the down-side of the technology and to report it accurately to the public.

Michigan is particularly prone to be on the side of industry in these matters. Witness the current State Senate bill to prevent any law suits regarding health impairment by wind farms. The public health must be protected from the profit motive of industry. Your evaluation of the testimony in this matter has the power to support the public's right to protect itself, to make the best informed choices in their own interest, or to subject the public to the will of industry, which places profit before our health, privacy, and building safety. I urge you to be for The People.

Those of us who are aware of being negatively impacted by digital

and Smart Meters know that many others who have not had our experiences believe "It's all in their heads". Even if we were all deluded in this matter, what would it hurt to give us our right to choose what we deem the best alternative? There was a time when people who considered cigarette smoking a public health hazard were deemed ridiculous cranks. That view has certainly changed with time and experience. Currently Oregon, Washington, Maine, and Vermont have Analog Opt-Outs. Please rule for Michigan to join them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Harvey

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